

Nosbaum Reding
Luxembourg | Bruxelles

Rats and Rituals

05.07.2025 - 06.21.2025

Artist

Atelier Van Lieshout



Rats and Rituals

Exhibition View

Nosbaum Reding, Luxembourg, 2025

Gallery Nosbaum Reding

2 + 4, rue Wiltheim L-2733 Luxembourg / T (+352) 28 11 25 1 / contact@nosbaumreding.com

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Solo exhibition by Atelier Van Lieshout

Opening: Wednesday 7th May 2025 at 18:00
in the presence of the artist

Since the dawn of modern society, rats have played a role in our culture and science. These animals often evoke a sense of fear and danger. Yet, Atelier Van Lieshout invites us to consider a different perspective: the rat as a resilient creature.

Rats are remarkably adaptive to changing environments and are self-sufficient, agile and sensitive, and able to take care of themselves. Considering these positive notions, one could easily see the human side of the animal. The rat could be envisioned as the animal of the future; an animal that will always be here. Rather than viewing it as a threat, rats should be looked upon as a friend instead of a foe. Just like the artist himself.

Throughout history, rats have also played a role in rituals. In some cultures, they are seen as omens or spiritual messengers, while in others they are worshipped as symbols of survival. This duality speaks to their symbolic meaning: living on the edge of the human world, rats can be found between civilization and nature, birth and decay.

Rats evoke fear in many: their beady eyes, yellowing teeth, and fleshy pink tails are unsettling. They dwell in the dark corners of basements, attics, and underground systems, long associated with disease and danger—most infamously, the plague. The word "rat" itself has become shorthand for betrayal and deceit. And yet, rats are also highly social, intelligent, and adaptable creatures. They are survivors.

In a rapidly changing world, Joep van Lieshout suggests that the rat may ultimately outlive humanity. With a touch of irony, he presents this exhibition as a reflection of our species: "While humanity perishes in the apocalypse, Rat Van Lieshout will survive."

Text by Atelier Van Lieshout

© Photos: Louis Weber

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***Rat Lamp*, 2020**
Fiberglass
122.83 x 59.06 x 29.53 in (312 x 150 x 75 cm)

Rats and Rituals



Rider of the Apocalypse, 2020
Mixed Media
51.57 x 22.05 x 57.09 in (131 x 56 x 145 cm)

Rats and Rituals



***Wise Guy*, 2019**
Composite
39.37 x 31.5 x 166.14 in (100 x 80 x 422 cm)

Rats and Rituals



Arianne, 2019
Composite
35.43 x 37.4 x 84.65 in (90 x 95 x 215 cm)

Rats and Rituals



***Vulture*, 2024**
Bronze
13.78 x 31.5 x 29.53 in (35 x 80 x 75 cm)
Edition of 8 ex

Rats and Rituals



Nuclear Crypto Helmet, 2016
Mixed Media
37.01 x 22.05 x 62.99 in (94 x 56 x 160 cm)

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Crypto Helmet Lamp #2, 2016
Mixed Media
15.75 x 13.78 x 70.87 in (40 x 35 x 180 cm)
Edition of 3 ex

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Meerkats, 2022

Bronze

17.72 x 12.2 x 17.72 in (45 x 31 x 45 cm)

Edition of 8 ex

Rats and Rituals



De Gelaste, 2015
Steel
24.41 x 10.24 x 28.74 in (62 x 26 x 73 cm)
Edition of 3 ex

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The Sacrificial Animal, 2020
Fiberglass
26.38 x 26.38 x 63.78 in (67 x 67 x 162 cm)

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La Masseuse, 2021
Bronze
23.62 x 19.69 x 15.35 in (60 x 50 x 39 cm)
Edition of 8 ex

Rats and Rituals



Happy Mutant Lamp, 2020
Mixed Media
23.62 x 16.93 x 24.41 in (60 x 43 x 62 cm)